Amended Page 1

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT

OF

MERE & TISBURY

For the year ended 31st December, 1938.

SANITARY AND HEALTH OFFICIALS :—

Medical Officer of Health :—G. NAPIER, B.Sc. (Hons.)
Steeple Langford. M.B., Ch. B. D.P.H. (R.C.P. & S.)
'Phone : Wylye 211. C.T.M. & H.

Sanitary Inspector :—T. A. BROWN,
"Jesmond," A.R. San. Inst., C.M. & F.I.
White Road, Mere.

Offices :—Council Offices, Mere, Wilts.
'Phone : Mere 60.

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H/DMC.

15th October, 1939.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Sir,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I observe from the report for the year ended 31st December that the Medical Officer of Health gives the total rateable value of the district as £6250. This is an obvious error; the rateable value at 31st December, 1938, was £40393.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) E. Howard Hiscott.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
WHITEHALL,
London, S.W.1.

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REPORT

for the year ended December, 1938, on Public Health Matters in the Rural District of Mere and Tisbury.

The Annual Report has been kept as brief as possible owing to the large amount of the Official's time devoted to A.R.P. work during the last Months in accordance with instructions contained in Memo 703/444/5 dated 18th/4/39 issued by the Home Office giving priority to this work and is later than usual for the same reason.

Area (in acres) 71,319

Population 10,420

Inhabited houses 3,280

Ratable value ~~£4,280~~ 40,393

Penny Rate yields £176 5 11

NATURE OF THE AREA

The area is almost purely an agriculural one, most of the inhabitants being interested directly or indirectly in agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		M	F	
BIRTHS				
Live :	Legitimate	65	75	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated
	Illegitimate	2	2	resident population 13.8
Still :	Legitimate	5	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still
	Illegitimate	0	0	births)
DEATHS		74	71	Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 13.9

Deaths in connection with childbirth

Puerperal Sepsis	nil
Other puerperal causes	1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Death Rate	All infants per 1,000 live births	34
Deaths from measles (allages)		0
,, ,, diarrorhoea (under two years		0
The Death Rate for England and Wales is		15·1
The Birth Rate for England and Wales is		11·6

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There is a Medical Officer of Health who spends his whole time in Public Health work. He is also the Medical Officer for Wilton Borough and Salisbury and Wilton R.D.C.

His degrees are Batchelor of Science with honours ; Batchelor of Medicine and Surgery ; Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, England ; Certificate of the School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, London.

There is one full-time Sanitary Inspector for the combined area of Mere and Tisbury. His qualifications are Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and is a qualified Meat and Food Inspector.

District Nursing.

There are Nursing Associations throughout the district supported by local Nursing Associations. These work well and there has been little to find fault with in this service during the year. The nurses undertake home nursing and maternity cases.

Laboratory Facilities.

Examination of swabs from suspected cases of diphtheria, and samples of water, etc., are despatched to the Salisbury Infirmary Laboratory for Analysis and report. The service given is prompt and efficient.

Hospital Service available for the Area.

(1) *Infectious Fevers.* Joint Districts Isolation Hospital, Old Sarum.

(2) *General Cases.* General Infirmary, Salisbury.

(3) *Children.* There is a Convalescent Home under the County Council available for debilitated children (Marlborough).

(4) *Maternity.* Beds are available at Salisbury Infirmary.

(5) Venereal Disease. Salisbury Infirmary Clinic.

(6) Tuberculosis. Winsley Sanatorium and Harnwood Hospital take the majority of cases; beds are also to be had through the County Council at Savernake and Alton, or at Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

(7) Chronic Sick. Provision is arranged for these cases.

(8) Orthopœdic. Bath Orthopædic Hospital.

(9) Mental Cases. Special schools outside the County, or other County Institutions through the County Council; e.g. Pewsey Colony.

(10) Puerpetual Fever, Puerpetual Pyrexia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum — Arrangements are made and consultations offered by the County Council.

(11) Ear, Nose and Throat cases. Salisbury Infirmary.

Hospital Service as a whole.

There are no hospitals or nursing homes in the area itself and none are necessary, the present arrangements being satisfactory and the area well served Full advantage is taken of Hospital treatment.

Salisbury Infirmary is equipped to deal with operative surgical cases, has special departments for all specialised work, and contains an up-to pathological laboratory.

There are no maternity or nursing homes in the area.

The maternal mortality is as it was last year nil.

There is no special local provision for unmarried mothers illegitimate children or homeless children,

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(1) Infant Welfare. Centres are provided in the area run by a committee of ladies supported by voluntary contribut. ions, by the payment of a small fee, and by a subsidy Ante-natal work is also carried out.

(2) **Other Clinics.** There are in Salisbury available for and used by this district a Tuberculosis Dispensary, Venereal Diseases Clinic, and an Orthopædic Centre provided by the County Council.

There is no school clinic for the district, neither are there day nurseries or light clinics.

Transport—Ambulance Facilities.

(1) *Infectious Cases.* Joint Districts Isolation Hospital ambulance.

(2) *Non-infectious and accident cases, etc.* Salisbury Fire Brigade have an ambulance which is hired.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Part of the sewer pipe line was renewed at Hindon during the year, otherwise there is no change in the Sewage systems at Mere, Hindon and Tisbury. The remaining Parishes with the exception of part of Maiden Bradley and East Knoyle have no organised system, but rely mainly on Pail closets which are emptied individually by tenants and buried in the gardens.

A few isolated privy Vaults have been discovered in outlying places, and whenever located pressure is brought upon the Owner to close same and provide Pail closets.

Water Supply.

26 Samples of the Public Water supplies have been taken during the year.

The Tisbury Water Supply was found to be polluted, and chlorination was carried out. The last samples taken are reported to be satisfactory.

One sample was taken from a suspected well supply and found to be polluted. Action was taken, the well being subsequently closed and the Public supply laid on.

Scavenging.

There is a quarterly Collection of Household refuse carried out in 8 of the 26 Parishes. The refuse is deposited in selected sites in the parishes. These dumps have to be regularly baited with rat poison to keep down the numbers of rats which infests the dumps. It would be more Hygienic if a central scheme for the whole district was put into effect, as no amount of rat poison will combat the rat menace at these dumps.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There are approximately 350 cowsheds or Farms on the Register Improvements in the structural conditions of the sheds

continues to be made. A record of the work done is entered under heading " Milk Supply."

There are now 54 Farms on the accredited list, and further additions to the list are anticipated during 1939.

Meat and other Food.

The Slaughterhouses were periodically visited and were found to be kept in a sanitary condition. No seizures of condemned meat were made. The quality of the meat continues to be satisfactory.

Two pig carcases were condemned and voluntary surrendered and destroyed.

Bakehouses.

Generally these were found to be in a satisfactory condition, only in one instance was it found necessary to take action with a view to having defects remedied.

Food and Drugs Act.

Sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the Wilts County Council. No samples were taken under the direction of the Local Council.

Verminous Premises.

One complaint was received in respect of a cottage occupied by two old people. The premises were thoroughly fumigated with satisfactory results.

Rat Repression.

Towards the end of the year a number of complaints were received with respect to rats entering premises, gaining entrance under the floors. Rat poison was issued, and in several cases had the desired effect,

Special efforts were made during " Rat Week," a sum of £20 being expended for the purchase of rat poison.

Smoke Abatement.

No nuisance from this existed during 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

A	The number of inspections carried out for all purposes during the year.	564
B	Number of Statutory and informal notices served	75
C	Results of the service of such notices	60
	Complaints investigated ...	52
	Drain Tests	70

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of Premises disinfected after notifiable infectious diseases	37
Premises disinfected after other diseases	4

MILK SUPPLY

Number of inspections made of Farms and Cowsheds	130
Number of new cowsheds erected	3
Floors reconstructed with proper drainage arrangements	46
New or improved dairy accomodation provided	14
Additional light and ventilation provided	24

1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

1—(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	83
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	120
2—(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	44
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	62
3—	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	42
4—	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	31

2—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	75

3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil

2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
   (a) By owners .. .. Nil
   (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2
   (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
      (a) By owners 2
      (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
   (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 20
   (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
   (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil
   (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having being rendered fit ... ... Nil

4—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 25
   (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 25
   (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 146

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 15
   (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 91

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowed after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, none

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... ... none

FACTORIES ACT

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Mechanical Power is not used	20	2	Nil
Factories in which Mechanical Power is used	6	1	Nil
Total	26	3	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES

Particulars		Number of Defects			Prosecutions
		Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Accomodation	Defective	1	1	0	0
Other defects		2	2	0	0
	Total	3	3	0	0

OUTWORKERS PREMISES

No. on Register	Work Glovemaking	Defects found Nil

Details of Infectious Diseases.

Disease	No. of Cases, 1938	No. admitted to Isolation Hospital	Death	No. of Cases, 1937
Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	39	32	1	25
Diphtheria	1	1	0	3
Acute Pneumonia	5	0	0	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0	2
Erysipelas	2	0	0	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notification under this heading gives rise to no serious cause for complaint.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Up to 10			1	1				
15								
20				1				
25								
35			1					
45	1							
65 & upwards		1						
Totals	2		2	2				